



Tulip Times

Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society

Established 1917

Spring 2014

President's Message

We began as Co-Presidents and have been busier than we thought possible ever since. Our speakers (which were set up before we started – so that credit goes to Shirley Madsen, our Past President) have been wonderful and Karen has given a brief synopsis elsewhere in this Tulip Times. The Board has been very active in planning and working on our annual events. Spring finally arrived and with it Flowers for Seniors with a record number of volunteers who created lovely bouquets in a very short space of time. Many thanks to Hilary Bellis and Kathryn Durand for all their work in making this event a yearly success. They are hanging up their clippers after many years of hard work and passing on the event to Lita Clavier and Jan McFarland, who we know will also do an excellent job.

Another sign of spring is the arrival of the tulips on Queen Street – late this year but as beautiful as ever. As always, we are the beneficiaries when the town changes this display, so as we write, Alice Rance and her group are busy selling the tulip bulbs that the town donates to us each year. Neob Lavender has again graciously donated space and many of us will be lining up with plastic bags to replace those eaten by squirrels and to generally add to their gardens.

Past Happenings.....

At our **January** meeting the speaker was **George Scott**, Apiarist and Chair of the **Niagara Beeway Organization**. He gave a very informative talk on the decline of bees in Niagara due to colony collapse disorder and what we can do to help: plant nectar-producing plants, install ponds and bird boxes. For more information go to www.niagarabeeway.com



Presentation: Members **Jean Cochrane** and **Sheila Hirsh-Kalm** presented **Past President Shirley Madsen** with a Certificate of Service Plaque. Jean wrote a delightful poem which we all enjoyed.

At our **February** meeting Marla introduced **Dan Cooper**, author of **Gardening from a Hammock**. Dan gave an excellent talk and slide show on low maintenance gardening referencing two websites:

Alice also organized and ran a very successful Plant Sale this year at a new location, the Virgil Arena. She and her group did an outstanding job and raised over \$2000. for our coffers in the process. Our thanks to all of them for their many hours of work.

Next up is the Garden Tour and Anne Solomatenko and her committee have chosen eight very interesting houses plus six courtyards in the Village, so be sure and check out the information and buy your tickets. It promises to be a very interesting tour.

As most of you know, we have been finalizing the new Constitution and By-Laws; after much work by last year's Executive and with the help of OMAFRA, we have completed the new version and have sent it out to all of you. It will be voted on by the membership at the September meeting, so please read it before then and phone or e-mail Diane or Marla with any questions/comments.

On a sadder note, we want to pass on the news of the death of Nan Ford, a member for over 30 years. Nan was one of the people who were instrumental in starting the idea of Flowers for Seniors (although that isn't what it was called originally). The preparation was all done with volunteers in her home. She worked hard for the Society with gracious humour and she will be missed.

It has been a steep learning curve for both of us but we're enjoying it and having fun. The best part is getting to know over 200 enthusiastic members. As both of us are at an age when remembering names is not our greatest talent, please introduce yourselves at meetings and give us feedback and thoughts about what you would like to see happening in the future. Many thanks to all our volunteers who make our Society activities a success and to the many who help every month with refreshments and registration. We seem to be constantly asking for your help, but none of the many things we do could go on without you. We hope more of you become involved

rainwaternetwork.com and gardeningfromahammock.com. His book was also for sale to members.

Canada Blooms

On March 19th, a grey and very bleary day, 56 members from the NOTL and St. Catharines Hort Societies, grumbled onto the bus for Canada Blooms. We were rewarded with a day full of gorgeous blooms, garden paraphernalia, and garden ideas. The place smelled of flowers and damp earth and we were very happy for those several hours. Some listened to lectures which gave us some ideas for future speakers, some spent lots of money on bulbs and doodads, some wandered around the floral arrangements, and we all had a lovely day.

Marla Percy



Thanks to **Donna Carter, Chris Mori and Nancy Chapman** for organizing the bus trip to Canada Blooms.

as the year progresses. Happy digging, planting and bug-eradicating over the summer. Enjoy!

Marla and Diane

The Objection To Being Stepped On By: Robert Frost

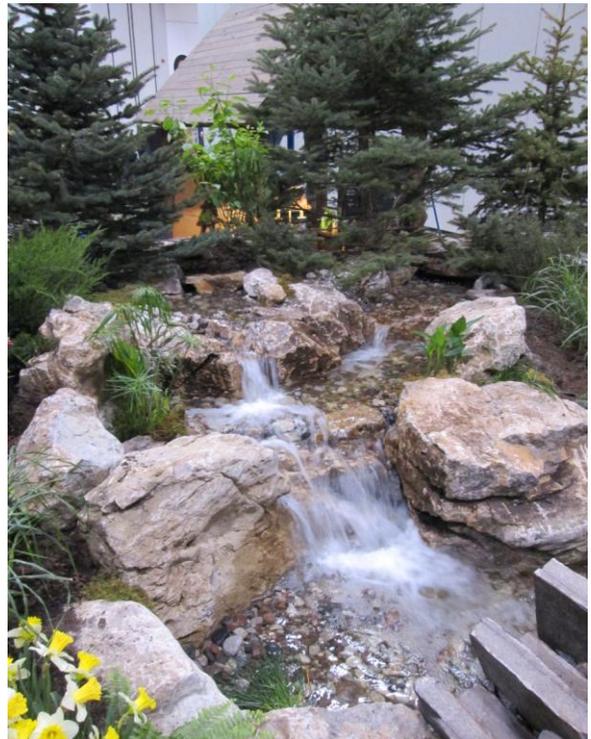
At the end of the row
I stepped on the toe
Of an unemployed hoe.
It rose in offense
And struck me a blow
In the seat of my sense.
It wasn't to blame
But I called it a name.
And I must say it dealt
Me a blow that I felt
Like a malice prepense.
You may call me a fool,
But was there a rule
The weapon should be
Turned into a tool?
And what do we see?
The first tool I step on
Turned into a weapon

Other Happenings

June to Sept. -- Member Garden Stroll

Members are invited to stroll through other member's gardens. Meet & Greet, learn something new; details will be sent via email.

NO MEETINGS JUNE, JULY OR AUGUST



Flowers for Seniors

Hilary Bellis and **Kathryn Durand** did a great job organizing the **Flowers for Seniors Spring Celebration** held on Friday March 21st at the Virgil Arena. Thanks to them and the many Society volunteers who worked so hard to brighten the long winter for our seniors. The beautiful flower arrangements created were delivered to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Hospital, Upper Canada Lodge and Chateau Gardens.

At our **March** meeting **Beckie Fox** of **Garden Making Magazine** gave a slide show and talked about how she made raised beds for a cutting garden of annuals at her home. She had lovely results with lots of colour and shared with us her experience as to what worked and what didn't.

At our **April** meeting **Ken Brown** spoke about vertical vegetable growing and showed us pictures of his garden. He was very knowledgeable and entertaining with many great ideas for making the most of your garden space. Some of his tips are:

- Grow potatoes, zucchini, or lemongrass in large pots

BUY YOUR TICKETS SOON
 The Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society
 23rd Annual
GARDEN TOUR
 Saturday, July 5th, 2014
 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
 Rain or Shine  Self-guided tours starting at any garden

*Hidden garden treasures await...
 behind some lovely garden gates*

Come and experience the peaceful and unique gardens of Niagara-on-the-Lake
OUR HOMEOWNERS SHARE THEIR PERSONAL RETREATS and SHOW THEIR CREATIVITY AT WORK

**9+ Unique Gardens
 Tickets \$10.00**

Buy tickets on-line at
notlhortgardentour@gmail.com

Tickets and brochures available at:
 Mori Gardens Design & Garden Centre, NOTL
 Seaway Gardens & Farm, NOTL
 Chamber of Commerce, NOTL
 TD Bank, Virgil
 Mullen Garden Market, Niagara Falls
 The Watering Can, St. Catharines

Tickets available on Saturday July 5th at all 9 gardens
 For garden locations please see our Garden Tour brochure with map or visit:
www.notlhortsociety.com
Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society Established 1917



2014 Executive

Co-Presidents:

Marla Percy 905-468-7220
Diane Hemmings 905-468-4964
notlhortsociety.president@gmail.com

Treasurer

Donna Carter 905-262-4362
carter.11@sympatico.ca

Secretary

Kathryn Humphries 905-262-5218
khumphries1@cogeco.ca

Immediate Past President:

Shirley Madsen 905-468-2325
foruatreasure@gmail.com

Membership Coordinator

Marion Boon 289-868-9168
notlhortsocmemberships@gmail.com

- Mix veggies and flowers in planters
- Grow pole beans and morning glories together on a trellis
- Gem Marigold will repel insects
- For tomatoes add a spoon of Carnation Instant Milk Powder in the planting hole for a calcium boost

At our **May** meeting **Charlie Dobbin**, host of the **Garden Show** on **AM740** talked about coping with gardening in a changing climate. Some of her tips are:

- Diversify plant varieties and keep vigorous
- Add organic matter to soil surface annually such as compost, leaves or manure
- Mulch! Mulch! Mulch! 2 – 4 in. When soil warms
- Xeriscape – use lawn alternatives such as clover
- Use rain barrels and drip hoses to water beds
- Mow grass 3 in. high with a sharp blade
- Plant trees for shade and native species; they need less water

NOTL Horticultural Plant Sale

Spring is trying hard to arrive and together, despite all the odds, we managed to pull the annual plant sale together. Our membership did an astounding job in finding annuals barely poking their little heads through the ground and getting them to us in time for the sale, and a nice selection of plants they were.

It seems that our selection of herbs, vegetables and tomatoes were well received also. The "**Muffin Ladies**" as our team has fondly dubbed them, put on a fine show with coffee and goodies in their impromptu "Coffee Shop" where our customers could stop, relax and socialize while shopping. With your help we will attempt to repeat the act next year with a little more co-operation from the weather.

A large thanks to **Clive Buist**, Director of Parks and Recreation and the Virgil Arena staff who made this ideal facility available to us and, not to be forgotten, all our volunteers who made this happen.

Directors:

Nancy Chapman 905-468-8944
nancychapman13@gmail.com

Dee Fahlman 289-868-9604
rdfahlman@gmail.com

Karen McLeod 905-468-9132
karen.mcleod155@gmail.com

Christine Mori 289-868-9177
cmori1956@icloud.com

Alice Rance 289-868-9252
alicerance1@yahoo.ca

Gail Santsche 905-468-4134
kgsantshe@bell.net

Anne Solomatenko 905-468-8714
anne.solo@gmail.com

Web Links To Check Out:
<http://www.notlhortsociety.com/>

Canadian Gardening
<http://www.canadiangardening.com>

Ontario Horticultural Association
www.gardenontario.org

Canadian Wildlife Federation
<http://www.wildaboutgardening.org/>

Strawberry Rhubarb Crisp

Servings: 8

Ingredients:

For the filling:

1 lb strawberries, hulled and quartered
1 lb rhubarb stalks (about 5 or 6) cut into 1 inch pieces
1/2 orange, zested and juiced
1 tbsp cornstarch
1/4 cup agave nectar or honey

For the Topping:

1 cup Quaker quick oats
1/2 cup 100% whole wheat flour



Ingrid Regier, Marsha Hodgart, Marla Percy and Organizer Alice Rance at the Plant Sale.

Philadelphia Flower Show

It was cold and snowy on March the 1st; nevertheless, Lindy, Diane, Barbara and I were off on the long drive to Philadelphia to take in the flower show once again. Anxiously anticipating our 5-day adventure, we kibitzed and made plans as to where we should have dinner and how many demonstrations we would attend while at the show. We already knew we would have breakfasts at the Reading Terminal Market just a block from our hotel and the Convention Centre. We checked into Loews and quickly made for the lounge to take advantage of their special: two cocktails per room per night before dinner. This year's theme of

1/2 cup light brown sugar, not packed
1/2 tsp cinnamon
1/4 cup butter, melted

Directions:

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Combine strawberries and rhubarb in an oven-safe dish. Add agave nectar (or honey), then orange juice and orange zest; sprinkle with cornstarch and toss until fruit is well coated. Mix remaining ingredients for the topping in a medium bowl then spread over fruit. Bake until topping is golden brown and fruit is bubbling, about 40 minutes. Serve with a scoop of frozen yogurt or a dollop of whipped cream and enjoy!!

Newsletter Editor: Karen Jones

“ARTiculture” was intriguing. We were greeted by a grand, framed entrance of massive mobiles and paintings, using a variety of plant material, replicating the art of Pennsylvania artist Alexander “Sandy” Calder. Three 30 to 40 foot high frames were surrounded by whimsical topiaries, sculpted trees and fragrant hyacinths. Disco-like lighting and music enhanced **Bandaloop**, an energetic vertical dance team which reminded us that dance is one of the arts celebrated in this show. Nearby, **“The Rise of Ballet in America”** was depicted using masses of white orchids and calla lilies while **“Broadway and the American Dream”** utilized red velvet drapery, stage lights and red roses. Displays of floral designs depicting the art of **Monet, Kandinsky, Van Gogh, Picasso**, and others dominated the floor. Some displays were full-sized gardens while others were 5 inch miniatures set in small niches. Plant material had been manipulated, painted and arranged into floral designs interpreting the artists of the Impressionist era. A wander through the horticultural division brought forth “oohs and aahs” and “Oh, I've got one of those!” There was everything one could imagine – orchids, cacti, bonsai, topiaries, begonias to name just a few. Terrariums and fairy gardens were meticulously created works of art. Particularly interested in floral design, the four of us watched 8 design demonstrations presented by renowned floral designers. Some demonstrations were competitive: three designers received the same plant material and toolbox and were allowed 30 minutes to create a design. The audience got to be the judge and decide on the blue ribbon winner. For the horticultural division there were demonstrations on container gardening and cooking using unique produce from the garden. After all this we had to go shopping – plants, pots, jewelry, design products, vases, garden sculpture, dried plant material, seeds – none of us came home empty handed. The entire show was produced by the dedicated members of the **Philadelphia Horticultural Society**. Next year the theme is **“Movies”**. Just imagine what fabulous floral arrangements, gardens and horticultural specimens will be on display to stimulate the imagination.

Ruth Boulton, March 2014